



# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII  
901 NORTH 5TH STREET  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

28 JUN 2006

Curtis A. Brown  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service  
Platte River EIS Office  
PO Box 25007  
Denver, CO 80225-0007

Dear Mr. Brown:


RE: Programmatic Platte River Recovery Implementation Program Final  
Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), CEQ # 20060216

Thank you for the opportunity to review the FEIS for the above mentioned project. Our review finds that the FEIS adequately addresses the concerns that at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identified at the Draft EIS stage. Broadly, EPA had previously identified three areas of concern: wetlands impacts and coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, water quality impacts and coordination with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and the clarity and precision of the alternatives (and most particularly the preferred Governance Committee Alternative). EPA appreciates the efforts you have made to improve the documentation and coordination.

The description of the preferred Governance Committee Alternative is now clear and easily understood; the restoration of the prescribed number of acres and the alteration of the Platte River flow regime are described in the document. Because of the long duration and complexity of the project, it is understandable that an of Adaptive Management approach is being applied to this project to better understand the Platte River and the Recovery Plan's impacts to that river, and to assist in shaping future goals. EPA hopes that adaptive management will be used in a public and scientific manner in order to protect endangered species while balancing the demands of all users and interests on the Platte River.

Please continue to keep EPA in the coordination network, for any assistance that we may be able to provide. If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at 913-551-7656, or email at [smith.stephenk@epa.gov](mailto:smith.stephenk@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Smith  
NEPA Reviewer  
Environmental Services Division